

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 FEAE-00 EB-07 COME-00

COA-01 DLOS-03 INT-05 OMB-01 /079 W

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R 171430Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7585

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: GOT POLICY ON AEGEAN

REF: A. ANKARA 339 B. ANKARA 361 C. USDAO OSLO IR 6872 0017 75

1. MFA SPOKESMAN AKBIL, AT JANUARY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE, ANNOUNCED THAT GOT WAS PURSUING "ACTIVE" POLICY TO SAFEGUARD TURKISH INTERESTS ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TO PREVENT THE AEGEAN FROM BECOMING A "GREEK LAKE." AKBIL SAID THAT THE CHARTERED NORWEGIAN SEISMIC SHIP "LONGVA" WOULD BEGIN SEISMIC EXPLORATIONS IN THE AEGEAN AS SOON AS "TECHNICAL" PROBLEMS ON BOARD WERE CORRECTED.

2. NORWEGIAN COUNSELOR ULLERN TOLD US TURKISH PETROLEUM OFFICE (TPAO) DIRECTOR GENERAL HAD ASSURED HIM NORWEGIAN VESSEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT
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OPERATE IN DISPUTED AREAS OF AEGEAN. ULLERN ADDED THAT HIS

FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD EARLIER ADVISED VESSEL'S OWNERS AGAINST UNDERTAKING ANY WORK IN DISPUTED WATERS, AND HE ASSUMED THAT EXPLORATION CONTRACT CONTAINED CLAUSE TO THAT EFFECT (REF C).

3. UTILIZATION, OR LACK THEREOF, OF "LONGVA," HAS BECOME SUBJECT OF POLITICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC WRANGLING. ISSUE WAS INITIALLY RAISED BY ECEVIT (REF A) AND COUNTERED BY IRMAK (REF B). PRESS HAS REPORTED CHARGES THAT SHIP, WHICH IS REPORTEDLY LEASED FOR THREE MONTHS AT DOLS. 10,000 PER DAY, HAS BEEN IDLED FOR EXTENDED PERIOD BY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND HAS THUS BEEN A WASTE OF MONEY. TPAO DIRGEN CEYLAN IN JANUARY 18 STATEMENT, DENIED THOSE REPORTS AND SAID TECHNICAL FAULT WHICH DEVELOPED JANUARY 13 WAS REPAIRED BY JANUARY 15 AND THAT ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WOULD BE COMPLETED BY NEXT WEEK. THE TPAO , HE SAID, WAS AWAITING ORDERS FROM MINISTRY OF ENERGY ON WHEN TO START EXPLORATORY SURVEYS IN THE AEGEAN. MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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